

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications.

Claims 1-22 (Canceled.)

23. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus, comprising:
- an elongated sealing member; and
- an elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive the sealing member, the receiver portion having an opening extending along a length of the receiver portion, the opening being bracketed by first and second ~~side ends~~ ~~of the receiver portion~~ ~~ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion~~, the opening providing access to the engagement aperture, the receiver portion further having lugs that project generally outwardly and downwardly from the receiver portion provided at a location that is spaced apart from the opening and is prior to the ~~side ends~~ ~~ridges~~, the lugs providing a gripping surface.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the elongated sealing member has a circular cross-section; and the engagement aperture of the receiver portion has an approximately circular cross-sectional shape that is configured to receive the sealing member.

26. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the receiver portion includes a handle that extends at least a portion of the length of the receiver portion and extends outwardly and upwardly from the receiver portion.
27. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing portion includes an opening that extends along a length of the sealing portion and a lanyard that extends through the opening.
28. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 27, wherein the lanyard is further coupled to the receiver portion.
29. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a flexible coupling member that couples the sealing portion to the receiver portion.
30. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing portion and the receiver portion are formed of a resilient polymeric material.
31. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 30, wherein the resilient polymeric material includes a polyurethane.
32. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing portion and the receiver portion are formed of a generally flexible metallic material.

33. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus for sealing a bag, comprising:
~~the-an~~
an elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive ~~the-an~~
elongated sealing member, the receiver portion having an opening extending
along a length of the receiver portion, the opening being bracketed by first and
~~second side ends of the receiver portion~~ridges that extend along the length of the
receiver portion, the opening providing access to the engagement aperture, the
receiver portion further having lugs that project generally outwardly and
downwardly from the receiver portion provided at a location that is spaced apart
from the opening and is prior to the ~~side ends~~ridges, the lugs providing a gripping
surface.

Claim 34 (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the elongated sealing member has a circular cross-section and the engagement aperture of the receiver portion has an approximately circular cross-sectional shape that is configured to receive the sealing member.

36. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the receiver portion includes a handle that extends at least a portion of the length of the receiver portion and projects outwardly and upwardly from the receiver portion.

37. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the sealing portion includes an opening that extends along a length of the sealing portion and a lanyard formed into a loop that extends through the opening.
38. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 37, wherein the lanyard is further coupled to the receiver portion.
39. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a flexible coupling member that couples the sealing portion to the receiver portion.
40. (Currently Amended) A method for sealing a resealable bag, the method comprising:
providing an apparatus having an elongated member and an elongated receiver portion,
the elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive
~~the~~an elongated sealing member and having an opening extending along a length
of the receiver portion, the opening being bracketed by first and second ~~side ends~~
~~of the receiver portion~~ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion,
the opening providing access to the engagement aperture, the receiver portion
further having lugs that project generally outwardly and downwardly from the
receiver portion provided at a location that is spaced apart from the opening and is
prior to the ~~side ends~~ridges, the lugs providing a gripping surface;
positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture;
positioning the sealing member proximate to the portion of the resealable bag and the
engagement aperture; and

pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion with the portion of the resealable bag interposed between the sealing member and the receiver portion.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture further comprises positioning an opening portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion further comprises closing the resealable bag to form a hermetic seal.